

Claims as Pending after Preliminary Amendment

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 ~~72~~ 1. A method of using an agent which influences the partitioning of dietary lipids between the
2 liver and peripheral tissues for use as a medicament to treat a condition in which it is desirable to increase
3 the partitioning of dietary lipids to the liver, reducing the levels of free fatty acids in obese individuals,
4 decreasing the body weight of obese individuals, or treating an obesity related condition selected from the
5 group consisting of obesity-related atherosclerosis, obesity-related insulin resistance, obesity-related
6 hypertension, microangiopathic lesions resulting from obesity-related Type II diabetes, ocular lesions
7 caused by microangiopathy in obese individuals with Type II diabetes, and renal lesions caused by
8 microangiopathy in obese individuals with Type II diabetes.

1 ~~73~~ 2. A polypeptide comprising a consensus sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ
2 ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2 for use as a medicament.

1 ~~74~~ 3. The agent of Claim ~~72~~ 1, wherein said compound comprises a polypeptide selected from the
2 group consisting of C1q, AdipoQ, ApM1, Acrp 30, cerebellin, multimerin and fragments of any of these
3 polypeptides.

1 ~~75~~ 4. The agent of Claim ~~74~~ 3, wherein said human polypeptide is selected from the group
2 consisting of ApM1 and fragments of ApM1.

1 ~~76~~ 5. A method of reducing plasma lipoprotein levels in an animal, comprising the steps of:
2 identifying an animal having a measurable plasma lipoprotein level; and
3 administering to said animal a composition that includes a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and
4 an ApM1, Adipo Q or ACRP30 polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID:11, 12, or 13,
5 wherein said polypeptide reduces plasma lipoprotein levels.

1 ~~27~~ 6. A method of reducing plasma triglycerides levels in an animal, comprising the steps of:
2 identifying an animal having a measurable plasma triglycerides level; and
3 administering to said animal a composition that includes a pharmaceutically acceptable
4 carrier and an ApMI, Adipo Q or ACRP30 polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID:11,
5 12, or 13, wherein said polypeptide reduces plasma triglycerides levels.

1 ~~28~~ 7. A method of identifying candidate pharmaceutical agents for reducing plasma triglyceride
2 levels in an animal, comprising the steps of:
3 identifying a compound that comprises a consensus sequence selected from the group
4 consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2;
5 obtaining a test animal having an initial level of plasma triglycerides;
6 administering said compound to the test animal;
7 waiting for a period of time;
8 measuring a post-treatment level of plasma triglycerides in a blood sample obtained from
9 the test animal; and
10 identifying as candidate pharmaceutical agents any compound that results in a post-
11 treatment level of plasma triglycerides that is lower than said initial level.

1 ~~29~~ 8. ²⁸ The method of Claim ~~7~~, wherein the test animal is a mammal.

1 ~~30~~ 9. ²⁹ The method of Claim ~~8~~, further comprising the step of feeding a high-fat meal to the
2 mammal.

1 ~~31~~ 10. A method of using an agent to decrease the activity of a compound which increases the
2 partitioning of dietary lipids to the liver for use as a pharmaceutical.

1 ~~32~~ 11. ³¹ The method of Claim ~~10~~, for use in treating cachexia in subjects with neoplastic or para-
2 neoplastic syndrome or eating disorders.

1 ⁸³ 12. The method of Claim ⁸¹ 10, wherein said agent decreases the activity of Adipo Q, ACRP30 or
2 ApM1.

1 ⁸⁴ 13. The agent of Claim ⁸¹ 10, wherein said agent is an antibody which binds a compound selected
2 from the group consisting of Adipo Q, ACRP30 or ApM1.

1 ⁸⁵ 14. A method for determining whether an obese individual is at risk of suffering from a
2 condition selected from the group consisting of a condition associated with a lower than desirable level of
3 partitioning of dietary lipids to the liver, obesity-related atherosclerosis, obesity-related insulin resistance,
4 obesity-related hypertension, microangiopathic lesions resulting from obesity-related Type II diabetes,
5 ocular lesions caused by microangiopathy in obese subjects with Type II diabetes, and renal lesions caused
6 by microangiopathy in obese subjects with Type II diabetes, comprising the step of determining whether the
7 individual has a lower than normal level of adipoQ activity, ApM1 activity, or activity of a compound
8 analogous thereto.

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